

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7115

BILL NUMBER: HB 1540

DATE PREPARED: Feb 8, 1999

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Tippecanoe superior courts.

FISCAL ANALYST: Susan Preble

PHONE NUMBER: 232-9867

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill eliminates two county courts in Tippecanoe County. It adds three superior courts in Tippecanoe County and gives each court a small claims and misdemeanor division. It abolishes the position of magistrate for the county court. It also allows the new superior courts to appoint one full-time magistrate.

Effective Date: July 1, 1999; January 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) The total annual cost of this bill is estimated to be \$128,616. This figure reflects the estimated cost to fund one additional superior court. However, this cost will not be incurred until January 1, 2003.

The cost for an additional judge is \$128,616 and includes: \$90,000 for annual salary, \$8,964 for fringe benefits, \$4,852 for health/dental/vision insurance, \$24,000 for the annual State General Fund contribution to the Judges Retirement Fund (trial court judges are not members of PERF); and \$800 for additional training, mailing, and travel reimbursement expenses incurred by the Indiana Judicial Center.

The conversion of the two county courts to superior courts, and the conversion of the county court magistrate to a superior court magistrate have no measurable fiscal impact.

Explanation of State Revenues: Adding one court may result in an increase of the number of cases processed in courts of record and speed up the collection of court costs, a percentage of which are deposited into the state General Fund.

When court costs are collected by a court of record, 70% goes to the State General Fund, 27% goes to the county general fund, and 3% goes to the local municipal fund (but only if the city or town maintains a law

enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record).

Explanation of Local Expenditures: County expenditures may increase due to administrative costs associated with the hiring of support staff and the provision of office space for the additional judge.

The conversion of the two county courts to superior courts and the conversion of the county court magistrate to a superior court magistrate have no measurable fiscal impact.

Explanation of Local Revenues: Adding one court may result in an increase of the number of cases processed and speed up the collection of court costs, a percentage of which are deposited into the county general fund and local municipal fund.

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Judicial Conference.

Local Agencies Affected: County and superior courts of Tippecanoe County.

Information Sources: Division of State Court Administration; IC 33-4-7-9.1; State Budget Agency; Indiana Judicial Conference; 1997 Indiana Judicial Report